

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SIG-02 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. COLLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----043724 250311Z /14

O 242311Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
CIA  
DOD  
NSC  
USIA  
USCINCEUR  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 24

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 24,  
1977. FYI ONLY SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED RECENTLY BY THE PLO FOR PERMISSION  
TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON SINCE THE LAST TIME IT  
WAS TURNED DOWN?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. YOU ARE ASKING HAVE WE BEEN  
ASKED FOR PERMISSION?

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A. YES.

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE UPI STORY  
QUOTING FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AS SAYING THAT THE UNITED  
STATES IS ORGANIZING A CAMPAIGN TO SET THE GROUNDWORK  
FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE PLO?

A. NO.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CLARIFICATION OF THE MESSAGE THAT  
WAS RELAYED TO THE SECRETARY BY THE SAUDIS IN TAIF ABOUT  
WHAT THE PLO MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DO AND WHEN?

A. A CLARIFICATION?

Q. YES, OR AN ELABORATION. IT WAS RATHER VAGUE  
AT THE TIME. THE SPOKESMAN AT THAT TIME SAID THAT FURTHER  
CLARIFICATIONS WERE BEING SOUGHT AS TO WHAT THE PLO MIGHT  
BE PREPARED TO DO. HAVE THOSE CLARIFICATIONS EVER BEEN  
RECEIVED?

A. I DON'T RECALL THAT ANYTHING HAS COME IN ON THAT, SINCE WHENEVER THOSE STATEMENTS WERE MADE, OR WHATEVER-- THE SECRETARY, I THINK HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT ON THE WAY HOME. MAYBE NOT. BUT, IN ANY CASE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. I ASK THIS QUESTION BECAUSE I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING OF A DEBATE GOING ON WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS, AND I WONDERED WHETHER THE DEBATE HAD BEEN CONCLUDED. ARE YOU CLEAR WHETHER THE AMERICAN FORMULATION IS THAT THE PLO HAS TO EXPLICITLY ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, OR THAT SIMPLE ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242 IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AND WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUFFICIENT TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES?

A. I WOULD NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE LEGALISMS OF IT. THE ONLY THING I CAN REFER YOU TO IS WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID.

Q. THIS IS NOT A LEGALISM. IT IS A POLICY OF FORMULATION, AND I THINK THERE IS A GREAT CLOUD OVER WHAT THE AMERICAN POLICY IS HERE, AND I WONDER -- IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER IT-- IF YOU COULD TAKE THE QUESTION AND TRY TO GIVE US A CLEAR STATEMENT OF WHAT IT IS THE PLO HAS TO SAY REGARDING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, IF ANYTHING, IN ORDER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE.

A. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET YOU ON THAT. I AM NOT SURE HODDING DIDN'T GO INTO THAT AT SOME LENGTH LAST WEEK, BUT IN ANY CASE, I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. WELL, THIS IS MORE RECENT THAN LAST WEEK, BECAUSE, AS I UNDERSTOOD YESTERDAY, THERE WAS SOMETHING OF A DEBATE

GOING ON WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

A. ALL RIGHT.

Q. IN ANSWERING THAT QUESTION, WHY DO YOU NOT STATE WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID AT THE TAIF AIRPORT, NAMELY THAT THE REVOCATION -- THAT ACCEPTANCE OF 242 BY THE PLO WOULD AMOUNT, IN HIS VIEW, TO A REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER.

A. WELL, IF I HAD RECALLED THAT STATEMENT, I THINK I PROBABLY COULD CITE IT TO YOU. BUT JOHN'S QUESTION, IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT QUESTION.

Q. WHY IS IT A DIFFERENT QUESTION?

A. WELL, THE QUESTION IS: DOES THE PLO HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING IN ADDITION TO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 THAT EXPLICITLY ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN ORDER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE.

Q. PHRASING THE EARLIER QUESTION DIFFERENTLY, IS THE PLO PLANNING ON OPENING AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON?

A. ARE THEY PLANNING ONE? I COULDN'T SPEAK FOR THE PLO.

Q. NO, BUT I MEAN -- THE QUESTION BEFORE WAS, HAVE THEY ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE. DO THEY HAVE TO ASK FOR PERMISSION, OR CAN THEY JUST GO AHEAD AND OPEN AN OFFICE?

A. TECHNICALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND SEE IF I CAN GET AN ANSWER -- DO THEY HAVE TO ASK FOR PERMISSION.

Q. THANK YOU.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 24:

Q. WHAT DOES THE PLO HAVE TO DO BEYOND ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242 IN ORDER FOR THE UNITED STATES TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH IT?

A. THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE ON AUGUST 8 AND THERE IS NOTHING TO ADD.

Q. CAN THE PLO GO AHEAD AND OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON, OR MUST IT RECEIVE U.S. GOVERNMENT PERMISSION?

A. U.S. GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IS NOT REQUIRED, PROVIDED THE ORGANIZATION IS DULY REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENTS' REGISTRATION ACT AND THE OFFICE IS STAFFED BY PERSONS LEGALLY ADMITTED TO OR RESIDENT IN THE UNITED

STATES AND IS ENGAGED IN LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. THE PLO LAST  
YEAR REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ITS INTENTION  
TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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